

Retrofit Instructions

Installing a Sport Heated Steering Wheel - Leather, Multifunction

BMW X5, E53, 2001 – 2006



Disclaimer:

This set of instructions is simply a guide on how I installed my own heated steering wheel. These instructions are not meant for sale nor are they intended for vehicle or parts resellers. All pictures and information is the copyright of the owner and may not be copied in any part or whole. If you choose to follow these instructions for your own vehicle, I am not liable for any defects or damages that may occur as a direct or indirect result of this document. Any work done on your vehicle is at your own risk. If you have any questions please contact arvi.singh@shaw.ca

Instructions written by Arvi Singh

Note: Check to see if your vehicle is prewired

Most E53's are already pre-wired for heated steering although the necessary switching relay is not installed and the required steering column switch is not installed. Check FUSE 29 in the glovebox compartment. If there is a 10amp fuse in place, your vehicle is already pre-wired. If no fuse is present, you can still install this steering wheel with an alternative power source switched through the ignition. Be sure to put an in-line 10amp fuse before proceeding with this method.

Tools Required:

Phillips & Flat head screwdriver, Torx T-20, Torx T-27, 16mm socket & Torque wrench with 6" extension.

Parts Required:



**SPORT STEERING WHEEL, HEATED,
LEATHER, MULTIFUNCTION.**

BMW PART # 323-067-688-33

LIST PRICE \$697.50



**AIRBAG MODULE, DRIVERS SIDE
(AS SHOWN IN PIC ABOVE)**

BMW PART # 323-067-629-61

LIST PRICE \$795.00

NOTE: YOU MAY NOT REQUIRE A NEW
AIRBAG MODULE IF YOU CURRENTLY
HAVE THE ABOVE STEERING WHEEL.



STEERING COLUMN SWITCH

BMW PART # 613-183-790-91

LIST PRICE \$108.81

NOTE: YOU MAY NOT REQUIRE A NEW
STEERING COLUMN SWITCH IF YOURS
CURRENTLY HAS THE 2 PIN SOCKET FOR
THE HEATED STEERING. SEE PAGE 5 OF
THESE INSTRUCTIONS.



CONTACT RELAY MODULE WHT/GRN

BMW PART # 61-368-373-700

LIST PRICE \$11.38



If you currently have the sport steering wheel as pictured, turn it sideways as shown and turn the ignition off.



IMPORTANT:

REMOVE AIRBAG FUSE FROM THE FUSEPANEL IN THE GLOVEBOX.

Failing to do so may cause the airbag to explode in your face and/or cause the airbag light to come on in the dash. This will require resetting the light at the dealer.



Insert a narrow screwdriver in the hole behind the steering wheel. You should feel a spring action to release one side of the airbag. Do the same on the other side to release the airbag completely.

This step will take some patience until you find the correct spot to push in. The screwdriver should be inserted at the same angle as the wiper stalk towards the center of the steering.



This should release the airbag and you should be able to remove it safely.



Using a small flat head screwdriver as shown, gently lift up the tabs to release the connectors. Remove both connectors and set the airbag aside.

**IMPORTANT:
HANDLE THE AIRBAG CAREFULLY – IT IS AN
EXPLOSIVE DEVICE!**

Put the airbag aside with the BMW emblem facing upwards.



Using a socket spanner with an extension piece, remove the large bolt in the center on the wheel. This may be very tight and difficult to loosen at first.

Remove the steering wheel straight out and set it aside where the leather will not get damaged or scuffed.



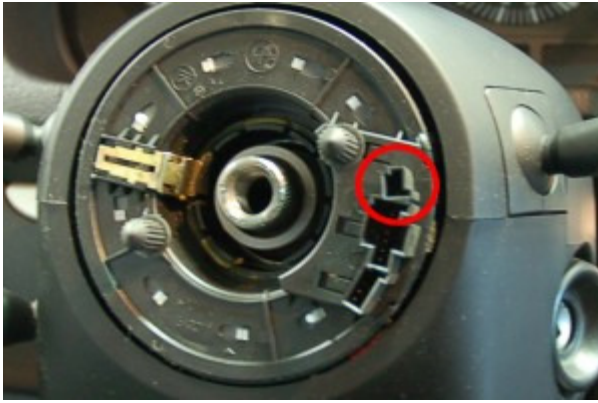
Remove the small screw on the top of the steering column as shown using a Phillips screwdriver. Once you remove the screw, there is also a small black plastic anchor piece that needs to be removed. Use a small flat head screwdriver to pry it out.

Do the same on the underneath of the steering column to remove the second screw. This screw does not have a plastic anchor and will be a torx screw.



You should now be able to remove the top and bottom plastic steering column panels as shown. The top and bottom snap into each other and there are no additional screws to take them apart.

Pushing gently on the side should cause them to come apart at the seams. Simply push them apart and leave as shown. You do not have to take them out completely.



NOTE:

IF YOU SEE TWO PINS INSIDE THE CONNECTOR, YOU DO NOT NEED TO CHANGE THIS SWITCH AND YOU MAY SKIP THIS STEP.

If there are no pins visible, you need to replace the steering column switch. Proceed to the next step.



Using a small torx screwdriver, remove the 4 screw holding the steering column switch.



The column switch should come off easily. Remove all wiring connectors from the back of the switch. Take the steering column switch off completely.

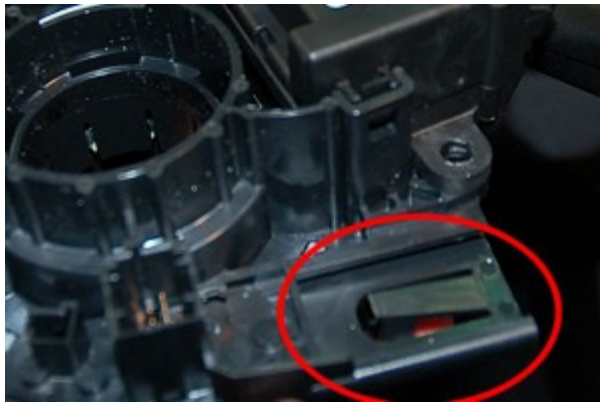


If your car is pre-wired for the heated steering wheel, you will see this small red connector taped back behind the steering column switch.

NOTE:

IF YOU DO NOT SEE THIS CONNECTOR – STOP AT THIS STEP. YOUR CAR IS NOT PREWIRED.

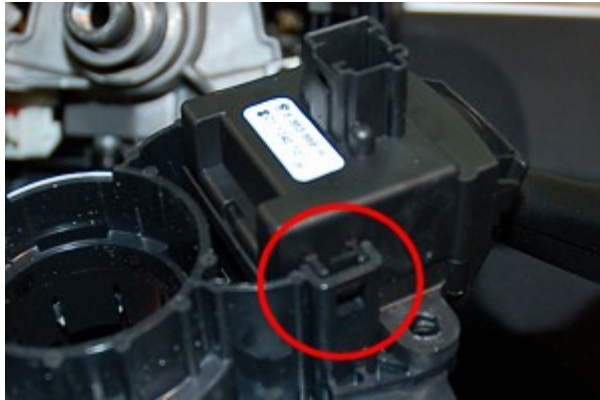
You will have to tap into a switched power supply such as the cigarette lighter and run a separate cable to the connector behind the column switch.



Remove the power steering stalk from the old column switch

There is a small plastic tab on the opposite side holding it in place. Simply lift this tab gently and slide out the stalk.

Picture shown is with the power steering stalk removed.



Next remove the indicator stalk and the wiper stalk. These simply snap into the column switch.

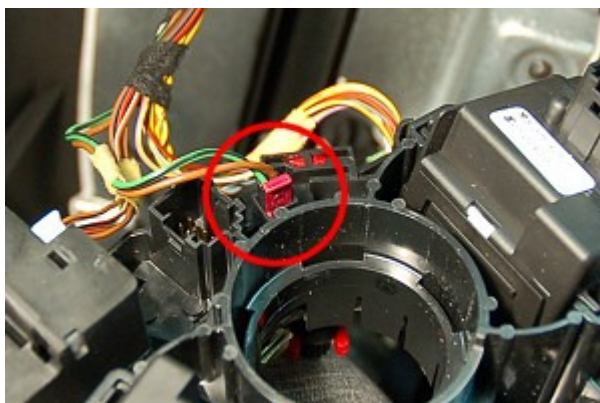
You may have to hold down the plastic tabs with a screwdriver to remove the stalk. Be careful not to break the plastic tabs!



Transfer all three stalks to the new steering column switch that you purchased.

Be sure the new switch has the two pins required for the retrofit before proceeding!

BMW has the same part number for the steering column switch however some came with the pins and some did not. Be sure you have the right part before proceeding.



Plug in all the connectors just as they were on the old switch. Here you see the new connector for the heated wheel. Plug this into the back of the column switch.



Screw the new column switch into place.

Be sure to align the top and bottom carefully and snap them together.



With everything put back together, this is what it should look like.



Install the new steering wheel. Be sure to align the mark on the steering wheel with the mark on the nut on the other side. Remember it will be installed sideways as shown since this is the position the old wheel was taken off in.

You may have to manually turn the center of the clock spring as shown in the next step – to align it with the cut out in the steering wheel. Once aligned, push back the new wheel and tighten the center nut.



Reconnect the airbag connectors and new red connector for the heated steering wheel as shown.



Reinstall the airbag connectors to the airbag that goes with this steering wheel.

If your current steering wheel is the same, then your current airbag will work perfectly fine.



Congrats, your new steering wheel is installed, but you are not done just yet! You still have to connect the other end to supply power to the heat function.

You can reconnect the airbag fuse at this point and start the car to straighten the wheel if you choose.



Open the glove box and disconnect the light. The light should be on the inner side close to the latch and should easily snap out. There are no screws in place.



On the left side there is a plastic arm that slides down. Lift the glove box just a touch and remove the plastic rivet holding it in place. This should just slide out to the left.

On the right side there is a small rubber stopper. Pull it outwards slightly allowing you to release the glovebox and lowering it.



Remove all the screws as shown in the pic. The one on the bottom right is tricky to get to.

Leave the glovebox in the passenger footwell. There will be a couple of connectors on the back that can stay attached.

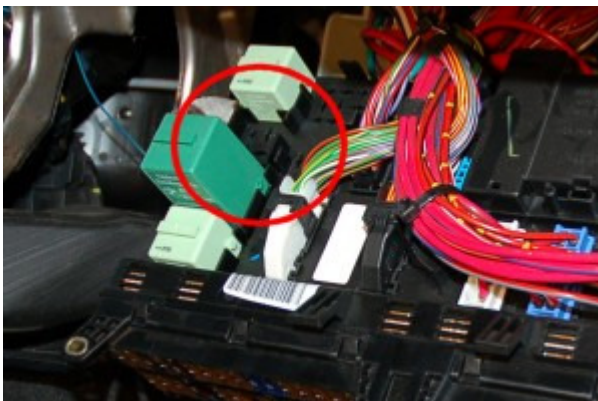


With the glovebox out of the way you should have access to the fusepanel.

Remove the 4 screws as shown to release the fuse panel. Push it back and down out of its place. You will need access to the top of this panel



This is what the top of the panel should look like.



On the left side you should see an empty spot for a relay. This is where your new relay should fit for the heated steering wheel. Simply push the relay into place – it only fits one way so you can't put it in the wrong way.



Here is a pic with the relay installed. Re-install the fusepanel into it's place.



Reinstall the glovebox in place. Make sure you have it aligned and check to see if it opens and closes properly.



Reconnect the battery at this point and turn the ignition to the on position. Press the heat button on the steering wheel and it should light up.

NOTE:
CHECK THE FUNCTIONALITY TO MAKE SURE THE HEAT FUNCTIONS SWITCHES OFF WHEN YOU TAKE YOUR KEY OUT OF THE IGNITION.



It has only one setting for ON and OFF unlike the heated seats which have three different settings. It gets quite warm though and will stay ON until you press the OFF button or turn the key to the OFF position.

ENJOY YOUR NEW HEATED STEERING WHEEL!